



Iowa Department of Human Services

Terry E. Branstad
Governor

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Director

April 9, 2014

Date Complaint Received: 3/17/14
Complaint Received By: Chad Reckling, SW II
Provider Name and Location: Joyce Caauwe 2808 Avenue H Ft Madison IA 52627
Complaint: It was reported to the department that someone observed Joyce standing over a three and four year old child threatening to cut off their fingers while they were in bed. Nothing happened with the children and the knife was taken away from Joyce. Joyce is reported to be on a wide variety of pain medications and is often incoherent and forgetful when talking with others on the telephone. Rule Basis: IAC 110.5(1) Conditions in the home are safe, sanitary and free of hazards. IAC 110.5(9) The provider meets the following requirements: A. Gives careful supervision at all times.
Findings: 3/18/14 Kathy Huinker, SW II accompanied Social Worker Sharon Andrusyk to the home of the daycare provider on this date as this worker was on scheduled vacation. There were no daycare children present during today's visit. Social worker Andrusyk asked Joyce if she was aware as to why they were there at the home today. Joyce replied "yes...little kid picked up a baby and another little kid dropped the baby." Joyce indicated that the baby did not receive any injuries. Joyce reported that the child that had picked the baby up "doesn't help with the babies" but that they help Joyce with other household tasks like doing the dishes, etc. Joyce reported that she threatened the children and that she was going to "break their arms" if they picked the baby up again. Social worker Andrusyk asked Joyce if she had anything in her hand when she said that and she replied "yes, a knife." Joyce indicated that it was a big knife and that she had the knife in her hand. She stated that she did not threaten with the knife but indicated that she had the knife in her hand because she was doing some work in the kitchen. Social worker Andrusyk asked Joyce if it would be accurate if someone also said that she had told the children that she was going to "chop their fingers off" and Joyce replied yes. There is a preponderance of evidence that this daycare complaint is true based on the providers own admission. Social worker Andrusyk asked Joyce what medications she was taking. Joyce proceeded to show social worker Andrusyk and social worker Huinker her medications that were in a roll which was presorted with the date and times of when she needed to take them. It was noted that she had medications for blood thinners, nerves, pain, and sleeping pills and that she was ten days ahead on her medications from where she should be at. Social worker Huinker and Andrusyk also observed Joyce to be very disheveled and appeared to be incoherent at times in her speech and was shaky when writing. Social worker Huinker also observed the physical environment of the home to be cluttered and in disarray. It appeared as if Joyce was taking the wrong dosage of her prescribed medications which would significantly impair her ability to appropriately supervise children while on these medications. There is a preponderance of evidence that this daycare complaint is true based on

the observation of the provider's medications and the state of which she was in when the visit was conducted in the home.

Joyce stated that she spoke with her daughter earlier today and told her that she was going to quit childcare and was going to tell her parents immediately. Social worker Andrusyk and Huinker discussed with Joyce that they were going to ask her to at least discontinue child care during the course of the assessment but that if she wanted to just withdraw her registration at this time that it would be fine. Joyce stated to then that she wanted to withdraw completely. Joyce and social worker Huinker wrote a voluntary statement and had Joyce sign it stating that she agreed that she would not provide care effective immediately. Joyce gave social worker Huinker her certificate of registration that was on her wall. Social worker Andrusyk stated that she would contact the parents of children to let them know that effective immediately Joyce will not be providing care so they can secure alternative child care.

A full compliance check was not completed on this date as a follow up compliance visit was completed on 3/10/14.

Resolution: Joyce signed a voluntary statement on 3/18/14 that effectively immediately on that date she would no longer be providing childcare in her home and gave up her registration certificate to social worker Huinker. This worker attempted to conduct a follow up visit on 3/21/14 and did not find any one home or that responded to this worker's knocks on the door. This worker was able to make contact with Joyce and her sister on a 3/28/14 visit to the home and determined that there were no children present and that a sign had been placed on her door that read "this location is no longer a daycare home."

If you have any questions regarding this matter feel free to contact me at 1-888-381-6831 or creckli@dhs.state.ia.us.

Sincerely,

Chad Reckling, Social Worker II
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